and Europe, and the case is under investigation. The Authority has announced preliminary findings, recommending impostion of anti dumping duties, provisionally, the details of which are given below :

Products originating in or exported from	Name of the exporter	Size of the graphite electrode	Amount Duty (Rs. per MT)
Germany	a) SGL Carbon AG	28"-30"	NIL
		22"-26"	9021
		All other sizes	20933
	b) Exporters other than above	All sizes	20933
France	Any exporter	All sizes	29695
Italy	Any exporter	All sizes	21645
Austria	Any exporter	All sizes	27347
Spain	Any exporter	All sizes	17125
Belgium	Any exporter	All sizes	16918

Appointment of Judges

*157. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken and important decision to reverse the guidelines of the Supreme Court of 1993 regarding appointment of judges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of this decision on general public and independence of judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The Government decided to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts. The Government felt it necessary to amend the Constitution to reiterate and spell out the intent of the framers of the Constitution clearly and unambiguously with a view to keep it beyond the pale of any controversy. Accordingly, the Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 was ciruclated to members of the Lok Sabha in March, 1997.

(c) The provision of the draft bill evoked a mixed response from Members of Parliament, legal and constitutional experts and other public figures. These reactions are being considered by the Government.

As of now, the statuts quo has been maintained since 1993 in the matter of appointment and transfer of judges.

Regional Imbalances

*158. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the liberalisation has only accentuated the regional imbalances in the country;

(b) if not, the parameters to show that the regional imbalances have declined; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The information on economic indicators at the regional level is not being centrally maintained. However, data on per capita Net State Domestic Product in the pre liberalised period (1990-91) and 1993-94 do not indicate any accentuation in regional imbalances in the country across the states. With the industrial delicensing under the new Industrial Policy, locational decisions are left to the commercial perception of individual investors.

Export of Granite

*159. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the countries to which granite is being exported at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to impose restriction on export of granite;

(c) if so, by when;